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May 20, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE (571.273.8300)

Mr. Hung H. Lam
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,096, filed Sep. 10, 2003
First Named Inventor: Yoshiro Udagawa
Examiner: Hung H. Lam
Art Unit: 2622
Confirmation No.: 5924
Attorney Docket No. 1232-5142

Dear Mr. Lam:

In response to my May 19, 2009 request for a telephone interview in connection with the May 5, 2009 response and Request for Continued Examination filed in response to the February 5, 2009 final Office Action (the "Office Action") issued in the above-referenced application, you requested on May 19, 2009 the following agenda for the interview scheduled Wednesday, May 27, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.

The agenda for the interview comprises discussing the arguments set forth in the May 5, 2009 response to the Office Action, including:

1. Tsuda (2005/0225662) does not teach detecting or generating a light reduction amount based on a change of state of the ND-filter, or based on the ND-filter itself. Tsuda thus fails to disclose, teach or suggest, "a brightness value correction device which calculates a second brightness value by correcting the first brightness value on the basis of a light reduction amount generated by inserting the optical filter by the filter insertion/removal device operated by the user," as recited in Applicant's claim 1. For that reason, it also cannot teach, "a control device which controls the signal processing in said signal processing device by using the second brightness value," also recited in Applicant's claim 1.

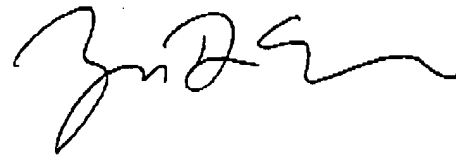
2. The Office Action asserts that "the iris Low-Speed Control Signal is interpreted as the first brightness value" and the "the iris High-Speed Control Signal which is differed from the iris

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Low-Speed Control signal is interpreted as the second brightness value." (Office Action, p. 3). Applicant respectfully disagrees. First, a low-speed iris control *mode* does not teach or suggest a brightness value "representing a brightness of part or all of an object," as recited in Applicant's claim 1. Second, Tsuda does not teach that the low-speed mode versus the high-speed mode is determined based upon a light-reduction amount generated by the ND-filter or the brightness of an object. Rather, it is based only on whether there is a change in the ON/OFF state of the ND-filter. Tsuda thus fails to teach the second brightness value as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

Very truly yours,



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